Remarks

General:

Claims 1-19 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 6, and 18 are rejected. Claims 2-5 and 7-17 are objected to. Claim 19 is allowed.

Claims 7, 16, and 18 are amended, as discussed below. No new matter is added by this amendment.

Claim objections:

Claims 7-18 are objected to because of informalities in the wording of claims 7, 16, and 18. Those informalities are corrected in the present amendment.

35 U.S.C. § 112 rejection:

Claim 18 is rejected as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The rejection is traversed. The examiner states that there "does not appear to be any description of this aspect of the claimed invention." The examiner is mistaken. "The claims as filed are part of the specification, and may provide or contribute to compliance with § 112." *Hyatt v. Boone*, 146 F.3d 1348, 1352 (Fed. Cir. 1998). The presence of an originally filed claim to the computer readable medium is sufficient to show that the inventors had possession of that aspect of the invention.

Claim 18 is rejected as indefinite on the ground that it is not exactly clear what "comprises" the elements listed after line 8. It is believed to be evident from a comparison of claims 1 and 18 that the listed elements are comprised in the process carried out as instructed by the code recited in line 1. Claim 18 is amended to state this explicitly.

Claim 18 is rejected as indefinite because "interrupt set" in lines 11 and 13 lacks antecedent basis. The claim has been corrected to refer back to the "interrupt set register" recited in line 4.

Attorney Docket No. 200315442-1
Appln. No. 10/756,434
Amdt. Dated 4/20/2006
Reply to Office Action of 03/15/2006

PATENT

35 U.S.C. § 102 rejections:

Claims 1, 6, and 18 are rejected as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,959,352 (Dickey). The rejection is traversed. There is no disclosure or suggestion in Dickey of processing the interrupt message in accordance with at least one of a target enable register and a vector enable register, as required by clause f. of claim 1, and there is no disclosure or suggestion in Dickey of code using a target enable register and a vector enable register, as required by claim 18.

Dickey describes a system and method for screening incoming interrupts from other partitions. In Dickey's method, in steps 72 through 84, the target device determines whether an incoming communication is a write from outside the target partition to an interrupt address within the target partition. In step 86, the system checks whether the source ID number is in the Interrupt_Set. However, in contrast to the present invention, in Dickey's system all interrupts that pass step 86 are processed identically, by passing them through an AND operation and an OR operation and then forwarding them to the target processor. All interrupts are transmuted. All interrupts are transmitted. Dickey's interrupts are not processed in accordance with a target enable register or a vector enable register as required by the claims.

Regarding claim 18, it is noted that the examiner has given no weight to the computer structure on which the code runs. The wording of claim 18 has been refined to recite more explicitly how the process instructed by the code interacts with the target enable register and the vector enable register. Dickey does not disclose or suggest any code that would use a target enable register or a vector enable register.

For all of the above reasons, it is believed that the present invention, as claimed in claims 1 and 18, is not only new but also non-obvious over Dickey.

In addition, the present invention that is the subject of application no. 10/756,434 and the subject matter of commonly assigned patent No. 6,959,352 (Dickey) were at the time of making of the present invention both owned by or subject to an obligation of assignment to assignee Hewlett-Packard Development Company, and the question of obviousness over Dickey does not arise.

Claim 6 is dependent from claim 1 and, without prejudice to its individual merits, is deemed allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Attorney Docket No. 200315442-1
Appln. No. 10/756,434
Amdt. Dated 4/20/2006
Reply to Office Action of 03/15/2006

PATENT

Allowable subject matter:

Claims 2-5 were objected to as being dependent from a rejected base claim (claim 1). As explained above, claim 1 is deemed allowable, and claims 2-5 are therefore also deemed allowable.
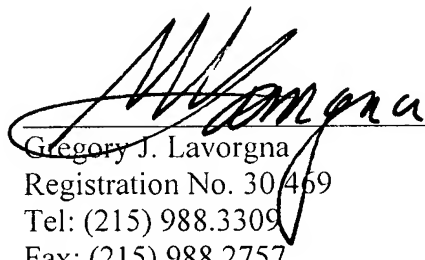
The examiner's allowance of claim 19 is acknowledged with appreciation.

Conclusion:

In view of the foregoing, all of claims 1-19 are deemed to be allowable. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the examiner's objections and rejections and an early notice of allowance of claims 1-19 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding Applicants' amendments or response, he is asked to contact Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory J. Lavorgna
Registration No. 30,469
Tel: (215) 988.3309
Fax: (215) 988.2757
Attorney for Hewlett-Packard Company